

**City of Reading City Council
Regular Business Meeting
Monday, July 14, 2014**

Council President Francis Acosta called the meeting to order.

The invocation was given by Councilor Daubert.

All present pledged to the flag.

ATTENDANCE

Council President Acosta
Councilor Daubert, District 1
Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz, District 2
Councilor Sterner, District 3
Councilor Marmarou, District 4
Councilor Reed, District 5
City Auditor D. Cituk
City Solicitor C. Younger
City Clerk L. Kelleher
Mayor Spencer

Council President Acosta stated that Councilor Waltman and the Managing Director have been excused from this meeting.

PROCLAMATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

City Council issued the following:

- Council Commendation recognizing Recreation Month, accepted by Executive Director Daphne Klahr
- Council Commendation recognizing the 10th Anniversary of Liberty Environmental, accepted by founder James Cinelli

PUBLIC COMMENT

Council President Acosta stated that there are two (2) citizens registered to address Council on non-agenda matters. He stated that the Public Comment Rules require non-agenda comment at the end of the meeting; however, he inquired if any member of Council objected to suspending the rules requiring non-agenda comment at the end of the meeting. As no one objected, the rule was suspended. He reminded those registered about the remaining public speaking rules.

Marta Vasquez of Franklin Street, was not present.

Mary Jane Smith, of Perkiomen Avenue, stated that she has been following the proposals for the Penn Square project through the newspaper. She expressed the belief that one project is more commercially oriented and is more economically viable. However, recent articles show that the City seems to favor the Our City Reading proposal. She expressed the belief that residential uses do not belong on Penn Square and that the federal and state grant money could be better invested in City neighborhoods, rather than in the City's commercial core. She questioned the capacity of Our City Reading and used the unrepaired Elks/Trexler Mansion located at 5th and Franklin Streets as an example. She expressed the belief that the Shuman proposal is better suited to Penn Square and is more economically viable.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA & MINUTES

Council President Acosta called Council's attention to the agenda for this meeting, including the legislation listed under the Consent Agenda heading and the minutes from the June 23rd Regular Meeting of Council. He noted the need to make the following additions to the agenda:

- Addition of a Resolution to the Consent Agenda authorizing the RAWA Hardship program
- Addition of an Ordinance for Introduction authorizing an amendment to the budget adding Fund 55 – Retail Sewer Fund 55

Councilor Marmarou moved, seconded by Councilor Sterner, to approve the minutes from the June 23rd Regular Meeting of Council and the agenda, as amended, including the legislation listed under the Consent Agenda heading. The motion was approved unanimously.

Consent Agenda

A. Resolution 78-2014 - authorizing an interest-bearing bank account with Pennsylvania School District Liquid Asset Fund for the City of Reading, to deposit sewer revenue paid by City residents defined for Fund 55. **(Man Dir/Pub Works)**

B. Resolution 79-2014 - authorizing the hiring of Diego Arcinegas, Josiah Fisher, Cornell Deuber and Bradley Silcox as probationary patrol officers effective July 14, 2014 **(Police)**

C. Resolution 83-2014 – authorizing the RAWA Hardship program **(Man Dir)**

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

The mayor read the administrative report distributed to Council, in summary:

- St. Joseph Hospital is currently evaluating the use of the former Community General Hospital, located at 6th and Walnut Streets
- Employee Appreciation Day on July 24th at First Energy Stadium

- Firefighter graduation ceremony on July 19th at 2 pm.
- Questions about the continuation of the Hillside Holiday Light display

Councilor Sterner stated that he was surprised with the questions about the continuation of the Hillside Holiday Light display, as the IBEW assisted in the correction of the wiring problem last year. He stated that he will follow up with people who organize the event.

AUDITOR'S REPORT

City Auditor Cituk read the report distributed to Council at the meeting, in summary:

- Delivery of the pension board actuarial reports to Harrisburg last week
- Retirement of Jessica Kohl-Shuman, who worked for 30 years in the City's Treasury area
- Receipt of the 2013 Parking Authority (RPA) external audit with historical observations about the RPA operations and financials

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz noted the need for the Auditor to obtain and share copies of all external audit management letters and findings.

REPORT FROM DEPT. DIRECTORS, BOARDS, AUTHORITIES, & COMMISSIONS

Daphne Klahr, Executive Director of the Reading Rec Commission, distributed copies of the Rec Commission's external audit and financial statements, which show no deficiencies. She also distributed a copy of the Rec Commission's annual report covering the 2013 activities. She noted that the Rec Commission received two (2) of the State's recreation 10 awards.

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz commended Ms. Klahr for running successful programs that benefit City residents and the renovation to many of the recreation facilities.

Council President Acosta praised Ms. Klahr's accomplishments over the past three years. He also recognized the accomplishments and commitment of the Rec Commission's staff. He stated that his son enjoys the programs offered by the Commission.

ORDINANCES FOR FINAL PASSAGE

Pending - Further Legal Review Required

Bill 41-2014 - creating the Reading Regional Water Authority (**City Council**) *Introduced at the April 14 regular meeting*

Ordinance - authorizing a project labor management agreement for building projects in the City (**Mayor's Office**) *Introduced at the May 12 regular meeting; Additional review required; PLA Work Group meeting scheduled for June 25th at 5:30 pm in the Penn Room*

NONE.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW ORDINANCES

The following ordinances were read into the record:

- A. Ordinance** - establishing a four-way stop intersection at Crestmont Street and Fern Avenue **(Public Works) Advertisement on July 21**
- B. Ordinance** - establishing a four-way stop intersection at Greenwich Street and North Second Street **(Public Works) Advertisement on July 21**
- C. Ordinance** - establishing a three-way stop intersection at West Green Street and McKnight Street **(Public Works) Advertisement on July 21**
- D. Ordinance** - establishing a three-way stop intersection at West Green Street and Weiser Street **(Public Works) Advertisement on July 21**
- E. Ordinance** - authorizing the transfer of \$25,000.00 from the Contracted Services line item in the Liquid Fuels Fund to the Maintenance of Roads and Bridges line item in the Public Works Budget **(Man Dir)**.
- F. Ordinance** – authorizing the execution of the attached Intermunicipal Agreement between the City of Reading and the Berks County Solid Waste Authority to provide for an electronics’ disposal program. **(Man Dir)**
- G. Ordinance** – authorizing the amendment of the 2014 Position Ordinance by eliminating the ‘Shift Supervisor Service Utility’ position and blending the associated responsibilities into an existing ‘Mechanical Maintenance Supervisor’ position at the Waste Water Treatment Plant. **(Man Dir)**
- H. Ordinance** – authorizing the amendment of the 2014 Position Ordinance, by decreasing the Developer positions from two (2) to one (1) and increasing the Network Administrator position from one (1) to two (2) **(Man Dir)**
- I. Ordinance** – amending the 2014 Budget by adding Fund 55 Retail Sewer Fund **(Man Dir)**

RESOLUTIONS

PENDING – Council Receipt and Review of PFM analysis

Resolution - designating Our City Reading, Inc. as the City’s redevelopment partner for certain properties located on Penn Street and authorizing the mayor to make applications for certain federal grants and loans **(Man Dir)**

A. Resolution 80-2014 – reappointing Melissa Eggert to the Board of Ethics **(Nom & Appts)**

B. Resolution 81-2014 – appointing Jack Gulati to the Main Street Board **(Nom & Appts)**

C. Resolution 82-2014 – appointing Catherine Cadwell to the Downtown Improvement District Authority **(Nom & Appts)**

Councilor Marmarou moved, seconded by Councilor Daubert, to adopt Resolutions 80-82-2014.

Councilor Marmarou stated that the City is blessed to have the expertise of those being appointed and reappointed this evening.

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz thanked those serving for their commitment.

Councilor Sterner stated that he is impressed with the enthusiasm by those being appointed this evening.

Resolution 80-82-2014 was adopted by the following vote:

Yeas: Daubert, Goodman-Hinnershitz, Marmarou, Reed, Sterner, Acosta, President - 6

Nays: None - 0

COUNCIL COMMENT

Councilor Daubert noted the success of the Schlegel Park clean-up conducted last Saturday. He also announced that the 5th and Bingaman area is hosting a clean-up this Saturday. Those wishing to participate should be at 5th and Pine at 9 a.m.

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz urged citizens to take the responsibility for cleaning up their neighborhoods, even if the mess was caused by others. She announced the meeting regarding the repaving of Cotton Street at City Reach Church on Wednesday, July 16th at 7 pm.

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz noted the article about the Pagoda in the New England "Antiques" magazine. She stated that the Pagoda is becoming an internationally recognized destination for tourists.

Councilor Reed noted the Reading Pride event this upcoming weekend in Centre Park. She also noted the frequent complaints about weeknight fireworks at First Energy Stadium. She suggested working with the Fightin Phils management to eliminate Thursday night fireworks

next year.

Council President Acosta encouraged residents to report illegal dumping to the police. He reviewed the upcoming schedule.

Councilor Marmarou moved, seconded by Councilor Reed, to adjourn the regular meeting of Council.

Respectfully submitted by Linda A. Kelleher CMC, City Clerk